

Burlington Conservation Board

149 Church Street

Burlington, VT 05401

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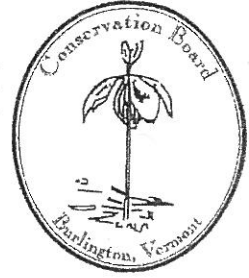
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Annual Report of the Burlington Conservation Board

Fiscal Year 2013: June 30, 2012 – July 1, 2013

The Burlington Conservation Board (BCB) acts as the primary entity within the City for comprehensive environmental planning and review. Conservation Board members provide volunteer services in their areas of environmental expertise, which include wetland biology, engineering, water quality, stormwater management, land conservation and management, and the law. The Board provides thoughtful comment and guidance on all major impact development projects and conducts field observations when appropriate. We strive to develop and sustain effective communication with the Planning Commission, Development Review Board, and other City departments. The BCB has partnered with the Department of Parks and Recreation on open space management and planning through the Conservation Legacy Program. The BCB has also worked with personnel from the Department of Public Works on stormwater management matters in the city. The work of the Conservation Board relies upon the support of the Department of Planning and Zoning, which provides staffing, development review coordination, and planning expertise crucial to Board function.

In the past year, the Board has focused on three primary areas: (1) development review, (2) implementation of Chapter 26: Stormwater, Wastewater, & Pollution Control, and (3) open space planning. Some of our achievements during the last year are described below.

FOCUS AREAS:

1) DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

The BCB reviewed 12 projects this year as opposed to 18 last year. In FY 2013, the BCB evaluated the following development proposals and gave advice and specific recommendations to the Development Review Board, Department of Planning and Zoning, and the Department of Public Works:

- 81 Crescent Beach Dr Review of seawall reconstruction
- 847 Pine St Review of as-built site changes along Englesby Brook
- 8 College St Review of repairs and reinforcement of bike path along lakeshore
- 601 Lake St Review of temporary construction staging area in Urban Reserve
- 11 Driftwood Ln Review of proposed seawall
- 3166 North Ave Review of proposed driveway along lakeshore
- 3169 North Ave Review of building demolition adjacent to wetland
- 110 Riverside Ave Review of 57-unit residential development
- 196-202 North St Review of 8-unit mixed use building
- 85 Riverside Ave Review of proposed trail improvements to river walk trail
- 3-11 George St Review of proposed 24-unit mixed use development
- 140 Grove St Review of 288-unit residential development sketch plan

The programs and services of the Dept. of Planning and Zoning are accessible to people with disabilities.
For accessibility information call 865-7188 (865-7142 TTY).

In review of these projects, the BCB made specific recommendations pertaining to stormwater management and maintenance and to the minimization of wetland and riparian buffer impacts.

2) IMPLEMENTATION OF CHAPTER 26

Chapter 26: Wastewater, Stormwater, & Pollution Control was substantially revised and updated in April 2009.

Since the adoption of the revised Chapter 26, the BCB has worked with project applicants and the Stormwater Administrator in implementing the stormwater management provisions of this ordinance. The Board has encouraged innovative design and incorporation of functional green spaces into project designs for stormwater retention and infiltration. Particular attention has been paid to unique site sensitivities, receiving waters and city systems, and feasibility within the context of particular development proposals. There has been a consistent push to improve stormwater management practices, particularly on redevelopment sites. Doing so decentralizes impacts to city infrastructure and, ultimately, to receiving waters such as the Winooski River, Englesby Brook, and Lake Champlain.

3) OPEN SPACE PLANNING

The effort to update the city's Open Space Protection Plan has spanned much of the past year. The effort has involved extensive public outreach throughout the community, with stakeholder groups, and online. The update of this plan is intended to reflect changes in land use, land development, conservation, regulations, and planning policies that have occurred since the original Plan was adopted in 2000. It will also establish new priorities targeted at natural communities, recreational trails, green infrastructure, and urban agriculture. Completion of the update is expected in the summer of 2013.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

CONNECTIONS


In the course of these activities, the BCB has maintained and developed important connections with other city departments and organizations during the past year, including:

- Development Review Board (review of individual development proposals)
- Parks & Recreation Department (Conservation Legacy Program, Land Acquisition, & Open Space Planning)
- Planning Commission (Downtown & Waterfront Plan and Climate Action Plan)
- Long Range Planning Committee (comprehensive planning)
- Department of Public Works (stormwater management)
- University of Vermont Rubenstein School of Natural Resources (senior capstone projects, Burlington Geographic. and Urban Reserve ecological assessment)
- Burlington College (North Avenue / Bike Path link)


FUTURE PRIORITIES

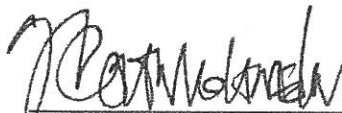
The Burlington Conservation Board will continue to provide the City and developers with timely review of proposals that have potentially significant environmental impacts. We will continue to work with the DRB on development review issues. Stormwater management will continue to be a high priority, and the BCB will work to develop explicit stormwater performance standards for future development. The BCB will continue to push for the incorporation of progressive environmental standards into the Comprehensive Development Ordinance and will work to

complete the update of the Open Space Protection Plan. Work on the Conservation Legacy Program remains a priority, focusing on conservation planning, education, and targeting parcels of importance to the City. Finally, another high priority that has developed with the recent Urban Reserve and Site Management Resolution is for the Conservation Board to play a leading role in the assessment of, and planning for, the Urban Reserve


Matt Moore, Chair

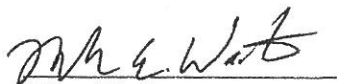

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